

ARTICLE APPEARED  
ON PAGE A1

NEW YORK TIMES

4 June 1985

# A 4TH SPY SUSPECT IN NAVAL INQUIRY SEIZED ON COAST

By PHILIP SHENON

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 3 — A retired Navy radioman was arrested today in San Francisco and accused of involvement in a spy ring that the authorities said had smuggled military secrets to the Soviet Union for as long as 20 years.

Documents released in connection with the arrest of the suspect, Jerry A. Whitworth of Davis, Calif., provide the most detailed picture so far of a spy ring that officials say operated on both coasts and at American naval installations throughout the world.

## Fourth Arrest in the Case

Mr. Whitworth's arrest was the fourth in what Navy officials say may be the most damaging instance of espionage in the Navy's history. More arrests are expected.

Court papers filed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation charge that John A. Walker Jr., who has been accused of leading the espionage operation, traveled across Asia and Europe to pass highly classified Navy documents to Soviet agents.

According to court papers, informers have told the F.B.I. that Mr. Walker, who recruited his brother and son, to be spies, also attempted to involve his daughter in the operation.

His daughter, Laura S. Walker, was then a communications specialist in the Army. There was no indication in the documents that she agreed to participate.

## 'D' Is Identified

Officials said Mr. Whitworth, who had been described in court documents by the code name "D," joined in the espionage operation with Mr. Walker and Mr. Walker's brother and son. The documents released today also indicate that a fifth person, with the code name "F" was involved in the operation. There was no further clue to the identity of "F."

According to officials, who spoke on condition they not be identified, Mr. Whitworth is believed to have stolen secret material from the Alameda Naval Air Station, a large Navy base near Oakland, Calif. He was accused of espionage, a charge that carries a maximum sentence of life in prison.

He may have met Mr. Walker while the two men were stationed in San Diego in the early 1970's. Both men served as instructors at the Naval Training Center there.

The F.B.I. said in the court papers that it believed the espionage operation had "been ongoing since at least 1965 and that Mr. Whitworth's involvement in this conspiracy spans a long period of time beginning at least by the early 1970's."

William H. Webster, the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, said Mr. Whitworth, 45 years old, surrendered to bureau agents this afternoon in San Francisco.

## Retired in 1983

The Navy said Mr. Whitworth was inducted in 1956 and was discharged with the rank of senior chief petty officer in 1983. The F.B.I. said he was currently unemployed and lived in Davis, a city near Sacramento.

A retired Admiral, Eugene J. Carroll, said that based on the F.B.I. charges, it appeared that Mr. Whitworth would have had access to information giving the Soviet Union "a great deal more insight into our capabilities" than would have been provided by Mr. Walker alone.

Admiral Carroll, an analyst with the Center for Defense Information, a research group, said individual holding Mr. Whitworth's rank and assignments could have provided sensitive information on submarine movements in the Pacific. Most of Mr. Walker's service involved the Atlantic.

Admiral Carroll said the most significant aspect of the allegations against Mr. Whitworth was his relatively recent duty aboard the aircraft carrier Enterprise. Admiral Carroll said this would have put him at the center of the communications traffic for the Pacific Fleet, including regular reports on movements of both American and Soviet submarines.

## 5 Good Conduct Medals

Mr. Whitworth received the Good Conduct Medal five times in his years with the Navy and he was also honored for his Vietnam duty.

The documents also provide the clearest indication yet that the motivation for the spying was financial. According to the documents, Mr. Whitworth stopped passing information to Mr. Walker in 1983.

But Mr. Walker, in a letter apparently written to his Soviet contacts, said that Mr. Whitworth had "become a puzzle."

He wrote that "D" — the code name

for Mr. Whitworth — had "become accustomed to the big spender life-style and I don't believe he will adjust to living off his wife's income," the F.B.I. said.

The letter asserts that Mr. Whitworth's prospects as a stockbroker were poor and that at best he could make only a modest living from his work in the computer field. "He will attempt to renew cooperation within two years," Mr. Walker predicted in the letter.

Mr. Whitworth, bearded and wearing a tanned suede jacket and blue jeans, was taken before a United States magistrate in San Francisco, who held him without bond pending a bail hearing Friday.

In a sworn affidavit filed in San Francisco, an F.B.I. agent said he believed Mr. Whitworth was the author of three anonymous letters to the F.B.I. last year offering to expose a "significant" spy ring in exchange for complete immunity from prosecution.

In one of the letters, the author, who identified himself only as "RUS," said that his contact, apparently Mr. Walker, had recruited "at least three others in the espionage ring who are actively supplying highly classified material." The author said he had already passed "top secret" cryptographic lists for military communications and other intelligence information.

The court papers trace the scope of the spy operation.

Documents previously seized in a search of Mr. Walker's Norfolk home and released today charge that on several occasions, Mr. Whitworth removed documents from nuclear carriers, where he worked as a communications specialist with a top secret clearance.

The court papers say that Mr. Walker flew to the Philippines and to Hong Kong where he met the ships and then passed classified information to Soviet agents.

In 1977, the F.B.I. documents say, Mr. Walker traveled to Asian ports where the aircraft carrier Constellation, with Mr. Whitworth aboard, was docked. Material found in Mr. Walker's home indicated that he had scheduled meetings with Soviet agents in various foreign cities, including Vienna and Hong Kong.

The F.B.I. also found handwritten notes that suggested Mr. Whitworth was looking for employment at a variety of sensitive Government installations, including the Air Force's Strategic Air Command, which handles the nation's airborne nuclear defenses. He also wrote of considering work at the Central Intelligence Agency.

The court papers also say that Mr. Walker passed secret material to Soviet agents in the Washington area as often as every three months.

Mr. Walker, his son Michael L. Walker and brother Arthur J. Walker have already been arrested. All three served in the Navy.

In Federal District Court in Norfolk today, a magistrate appointed two law-

Continued

yers to represent Arthur Walker, 50, who has reportedly admitted receiving \$12,000 for delivering secret military documents to the Soviet Union.

Shackled and in leg irons, Mr. Walker was led into the courtroom, where he told the magistrate, Gilbert R. Swink Jr., that he could not afford counsel.

Mr. Walker said he owned a \$90,000 house but still owed about \$20,000 on the first mortgage and about \$7,000 on a second. He said he also owned two cars worth about \$2,200 together.

Normally, the magistrate said, Mr. Walker's assets would be sufficient to pay for private lawyers. But the magistrate said he had decided on court-appointed counsel because the charges against Mr. Walker were so serious that they could lead to "rather large" legal fees.

#### Defense Counsel Appointed

The magistrate appointed two Norfolk lawyers, Samuel W. Meekins Jr. and J. Brian Donnelly, a former United States attorney here.

On the courthouse steps, Mr. Meekins told reporters that he did not know whether Mr. Walker would plead not guilty or guilty, or whether he had been cooperating with the Government. "We are very much in the dark regarding the circumstances of the case," he said.

Mr. Walker was entitled to two lawyers because espionage is still classified as a capital crime, even though it is not punishable by death in peacetime.

Mr. Meekins said he would ask that Mr. Walker be released on bail. He said that Mr. Walker had been visited over the weekend in the Virginia Beach city jail by his wife, Rita.

Accompanied by two teen-agers, she sat in the back of the courtroom at this afternoon's five-minute hearing and then slipped away, unwilling to talk to reporters.

Asked to describe Mr. Walker's mood in jail, Mr. Meekins said it was one of "concern for his family, because he has been the breadwinner all of their lives."

The magistrate ordered Mr. Walker held without bond until a bail hearing on June 12. Mr. Walker, a retired lieutenant commander in the Navy, worked as an engineer at the VSE Corporation, a Virginia-based military contractor.